



Office of International Programs *Monthly Newsletter*

October 2011

Office of International Programs Hosts National Defense University

The Office of International Programs hosted the National Defense University (NDU), the higher education institution of the Department of Defense, on Tuesday, October 11, 2011.

NDU's International Fellows Program is designed for a cadre of senior officers from national militaries around the world. As part of this year-long program, the fellows take topical field visits in the U.S. Their Midwest tour has centered around critical food and agriculture issues. The group of 58 fellows visited the College of ACES for a half-day of seminars on strategic topics including:



NDU Fellow (right) presents Richard Vogen, Director of College Planning & Special Projects, with a gift of appreciation.

The program concluded with a luncheon during which the fellows had the opportunity to interact with ACES faculty and University of Illinois administrators.

the agricultural market situation and strategic implications, the changing structure of the world food system, issues in global agricultural trade, and bio-energy competitiveness and sustainability. The program concluded with a luncheon during which the fellows had

Dr. Shenggen Fan, Director General of the International Food Policy Research Institute, Discusses "Feeding the World in 2050" at ACES International Lecture



On October 20, the Office of International Programs hosted Dr. Shenggen Fan as part of its International Lecture Series. Dr. Fan, who serves as director of the International Food Policy Research Institute, spoke to a room full of attendees about the inevitable challenges to be faced in feeding the world in 2050, when the population is projected to be 9 billion. Although food security is under stress from a combination of complex global factors, Dr. Fan discussed several innovative ways to

increase agricultural production, enhance nutritional value, save water and land, and link producers with consumers. He stressed the importance of practicing climate-smart agriculture, engaging emerging economies (China, India, and Brazil) in the ongoing dialogue and in solutions, embracing public-private partnerships, and putting nutrition on the global agenda. Most importantly, Dr. Fan strongly believes it is possible to feed the world in 2050. He said that the evidence-based policy research from the College of ACES and other U.S. universities will be critical in meeting this challenge.



India's Secretary of Agriculture and Cooperation Visits UIUC

India's Secretary of Agriculture and Cooperation Prabeer Kumar Basu visited the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) campus on Wednesday, October 5, 2011, to learn about current research activities in agriculture, and how the College of Agriculture, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) effectively delivers innovative technologies to industry and end users.

Prior to his visit, Hon. Mr. Basu participated in a symposium on "Opportunities for Innovations in Indian Agriculture" organized in Chicago that was co-sponsored by UIUC, Michigan State University, and the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. Secretary Basu was a keynote speaker at this symposium along with Interim Chancellor Robert Easter.

Also traveling with the Indian delegation was USDA's David Leishman, who is currently the Senior Attaché for Agricultural Affairs for India - Bangladesh - Sri Lanka at the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi. The Secretary and his colleagues left with a broader understanding of Agricultural Research Service (ARS) capabilities and priorities, and specifically how the U.S. Department of Agriculture-ARS collaborates with farm organizations, universities, and the private sector. After leaving UIUC, Secretary Basu traveled to Washington D.C. to meet with U.S. Under Secretary Catherine Woteki.



Basu (middle) talks with Pradeep Khanna (left) and Schuyler Korban (right).

Seufferheld Advancing Soybean Research in UI-Argentina Collaboration

by Carly Rakes



Seufferheld (left), Zavala (center), Pagano (back) along with a student (forefront).

Dr. Manfredo Seufferheld, Assistant Professor in the Department of Crop Sciences, is currently hosting two visiting scientists from the University

of Buenos Aires in Argentina to study why insects are capable of resisting soybean defenses, such as in the case of the Western corn rootworm.

Dr. Eduardo Pagano, Vice Dean of the College of Agronomy, and Dr. Jorge Zavala, Adjunct Professor, at the University of Buenos Aires in Argentina, are using insects as a model to also understand how agro-ecological disturbances can affect the evolution of insects.

The trio are examining how bacteria is contributing to Western corn rootworm resistance to crop rotation. "It was very surprising when we found this insect can feed on soybeans," said Zavala. "It has been a mystery for 15 years, so we are very pleased with our results."

This research collaboration, a project funded by USDA-NIFA, allows the two institutions to work together in improving agriculture.

"Manfredo is looking at the role of bacteria in the Western corn rootworm," said Zavala. "But in Argentina, we are looking at the role of bacteria in the Stink Bug. And it's a very important issue, because it is moving north to the U.S."

"Having a better understanding of which traits have better resistance against insects will be important to agricultural stakeholders in Argentina," said Zavala. "Identifying those traits will help soybean breeders follow these traits or try to breed crops that are more resistant to insects."

"This is just the start of a relationship that will be very fruitful, with mutual benefits and interactions between the two institutions," said Seufferheld. "The University of Buenos Aires is one of the most important agricultural schools in the world; right now it's among the top 100 institutions in the world."

Santas Celebrates 33 Years with College of ACES

by Carly Rakes



Dr. John W. Santos, Assistant Dean Emeritus for special projects in the ACES Office of International Programs, has officially "re-retired" and is celebrating 33 years of exemplary service within the College of ACES through international education and training. Santos has played an instrumental role in various international projects and activities. He managed the programs of more than 500 foreign students and trainees who were sponsored through institution-building and university-development projects carried out in Zambia, Kenya, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Congo, and Cote d'Ivoire. In addition, he established and implemented the ACES study abroad program.

Santas is a Wisconsin native and came to the U of I in January 1978, with a disciplinary background in agricultural education. Here, he served as a training officer for the International Soybean Program (INTSOY), an operation aimed at utilizing the potential of soybeans in developing countries to improve human nutrition needs, and INTERPAKS (The International Program for Agricultural Knowledge Systems). Santos spent his time in Academic Programs from 1996-2002 in student exchange and study abroad. After 2002, Santos retired, but decided he couldn't quit working 'cold turkey.' At that time, he worked in ACES Global Connect, where he was involved in a USAID-funded project that built human capacity for Afghanistan's agriculture sector. Nearly 550 Afghans were enrolled in technical short courses, M.S. degree programs, and research training.

Santas has received a number of recognitions for his efforts, including the International Humanitarian Award in 2005. Now, in 2011, Santos is looking forward to the most important role he plays – and that is being Grandfather to two charming youngsters in Missouri, spending his time as the newly elected President of the Dugout Club, and enjoying his love for the game of baseball. Santos will reside in 277 National Soybean Research Laboratory (NSRL) to provide historical perspectives on international collaborations. Please visit our website for a full story celebrating the career of Dr. Santos:

<http://intlprograms.aces.illinois.edu/santas>.

IBIP Provides International Perspective



The 2011 International Business Immersion Program (IBIP) concluded on October 6, 2011, as the 24 participants, divided into six groups, premiered their final video projects about their research findings on the European food and agribusiness industry. Since 2001, the IBIP experience has allowed students to gain an international perspective and network to build on for future study abroad experiences, internships, and careers. This

year's theme was "Firm, Channel, and Industry Dynamics within the European Agri-Food Sector" and featured a visit to Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany. The topics of this year's final video projects included sustainable cocoa, free range chicken, canola oil, and a comparison of the European and U.S. recycling industries.

Reflecting on the experience, participant Elizabeth Steger, a Finance in Agribusiness major in ACES set to graduate in spring 2012, says, "After participating in this trip I am very interested in having the opportunity to visit other countries for work, or even live abroad for a period of time for a career. I think this trip gives us a great advantage due to the knowledge and experience we have gained academically, personally, and professionally." For more information on IBIP, visit the program's website at: <http://ibip.illinois.edu/>.